IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 to 18, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please add new Claims 19 to 36 to read as follows.

Claims 1 to 18 (Cancelled).

19. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a latent image bearing member;

a developing portion, having a plurality of developing devices, provided opposite said latent image bearing member;

an input portion for inputting an image signal;

an auto-discriminating portion for automatically discriminating among kinds of input image signals;

a control portion for controlling operation of said image forming apparatus, said image forming apparatus being operable in:

a first mode for executing monochrome image formation;

a second mode for executing color image formation; and

an auto-selecting mode for changing over between said first mode and said second mode in accordance with a discrimination by said auto-discriminating portion; and

a designating portion, wherein when said image forming apparatus is operating in the auto-selecting mode, said designating portion can designate between the first mode and the second mode as a standby position before said auto-discriminating portion makes the discrimination.

20. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein the standby position of a predetermined developing device differs in accordance with a designation by said designating portion.

21. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein said predetermined developing device is a developing device to be used initially in the second mode.

22. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein said plurality of developing devices are disposed around a rotation shaft in said developing portion, and said developing portion is rotated about the rotation shaft to bring a desired developing device of said plurality of developing devices into a developing position opposite said latent image bearing member to perform a developing operation.

23. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a latent image bearing member;

a developing portion, having a plurality of developing devices, provided opposite said latent image bearing member;

an input portion for inputting an image signal;

an auto-discriminating portion for automatically discriminating among kinds of input image signals; and

a control portion for controlling operation of said image forming apparatus, said image forming apparatus being operable in;

a first mode for executing monochrome image formation;

a second mode for executing color image formation; and

an auto-selecting mode for changing over between the first mode and the second mode in accordance with a discrimination by said auto-discriminating portion,

wherein when said image forming apparatus is operating in the auto-selecting mode, said control portion selects between the first mode and the second mode and stands by before said auto-discriminating portion makes the discrimination.

24. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein when the stand by mode before said auto-discriminating portion makes the discrimination is different from the mode the image forming apparatus is changed over to in accordance with the discrimination by said auto-discriminating portion, said control portion moves a developing device to be used initially in the mode the image forming apparatus is to be changed over to in accordance with the discrimination by said auto-discriminating portion to a developing position.

25. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein said control portion selects between the first mode and the second mode in accordance with a setting set by an operator and stands by.

26. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein said control portion sets the stand by mode before said auto-discriminating portion makes the discrimination, in accordance with the frequency of use in the first mode and the frequency of use in the second mode of said image forming apparatus.

27. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein said plurality of developing devices are disposed around a rotation shaft in said developing portion, and said developing portion is rotated about the rotation shaft to bring a desired developing device of said plurality of developing devices into a developing position opposite said latent image bearing member to perform a developing operation.

28. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a latent image bearing member;

a developing portion, having a plurality of developing devices, provided opposite said latent image bearing member;

an input portion for inputting an image signal;

an auto-discriminating portion for automatically discriminating among kinds of input image signals;

a control portion for controlling operation of said image forming apparatus, said image forming apparatus being operable in:

a first mode for executing image formation using a first developing device;

a second mode for executing image formation without using said first developing device; and

an auto-selecting mode for changing over between said first mode and said second mode in accordance with a discrimination by said auto-discriminating portion; and

a designating portion, wherein when said image forming apparatus is operating in the auto-selecting mode, said designating portion can designate between the first mode and the second mode as a standby position before said auto-discriminating portion makes the discrimination.

29. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 28, wherein the standby position of a predetermined developing device differs in accordance with a designation by said designating portion.

30. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 29, wherein said predetermined developing device is a developing device to be used in the first mode.

31. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 28, wherein said plurality of developing devices are disposed around a rotation shaft in said developing portion, and said developing portion is rotated about the rotation shaft to bring a desired developing device of said plurality of developing devices into a developing position opposite said latent image bearing member to perform a developing operation.

32. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a latent image bearing member;

a developing portion, having a plurality of developing devices, provided opposite said latent image bearing member;

an input portion for inputting an image signal;

an auto-discriminating portion for automatically discriminating among kinds of input image signals; and

a control portion for controlling operation of said image forming apparatus, said image forming apparatus being operable in:

a first mode for executing image formation using a first developing device;

a second mode for executing image formation without using said first developing device; and

an auto-selecting mode for changing over between said first mode and said second mode in accordance with a discrimination by said auto-discriminating portion,

wherein when said image forming apparatus is operating in the auto-selecting mode, said control portion selects between the first mode and the second mode and stands by before said auto-discriminating portion makes the discrimination.

33. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 32, wherein when the stand by mode before said auto-discriminating portion makes the discrimination is different from the mode the image forming apparatus is changed over to in accordance with the discrimination by said auto-discriminating portion, said control portion moves a developing device to be used initially in the mode the image forming apparatus is to be changed over to in accordance with the discrimination by said auto-discriminating portion to a developing position.

34. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 33, wherein said control portion selects between the first mode and the second mode in accordance with a setting set by an operator and stands by.

35. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 33, wherein said control portion sets the stand by mode before said auto-discriminating portion makes the discrimination in accordance with the frequency of use in the first mode and the frequency of use in the second mode of said image forming apparatus.

36. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 33, wherein said plurality of developing devices are disposed around a rotation shaft in said developing portion, and said developing portion is rotated about the rotation shaft to bring a desired developing device of said plurality of developing devices into a developing position opposite said latent image bearing member to perform a developing operation.